

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:JTYLER

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH

OASD/ISA:MG MCAULIFFE

JCS/J-5:COL PARISH

EUR/RPM:COL RTHOMPSON

PM/ISP:COL POWERS (NFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC AGENDA FOR JANUARY 16, 1975

REF: A. USNATO 0094; B. USNATO 0139

I. FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF
DEFENCE MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1974. SEE STATE 3477 AND
8271. WHILE WE CONCUR WITH THRUST AND SCOPE OF
FOLLOW-UP ACTION AS DESCRIBED IN PO, IF PO IS TO STAND
AS A PLANNING DIRECTIVE FOR SPRING 1975 THERE SHOULD
BE A CLEAR AGREEMENT THAT SPRING WORK WILL INCLUDE A
STOCK-TAKING ON BASIC ISSUES FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, WHETHER
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE SPRING REVIEW OR THROUGH A
SPECIAL REPORT TO MINISTERS. ON NATO CRISIS MANAGEMENT
MACHINERY, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SECGEN'S PROPOSAL
TO TASK CHAIRMAN COEC FOR A REPORT ON HOW IT WORKS
AND WHAT PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED; WE SEE LINK TO
STUDY ON USE OF WARNING TIME; WE ALSO RECALL THAT
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CRISIS MANAGEMENT WAS ORIGINALLY ONE OF THE SUPPORTING

DEFENSE PROGRAMS TO BE REVIEWED AND ASSESSED
FOR OVERALL BALANCE AS PART OF THE ANNUAL SPRING
REVIEW.

II. STUDY ON THE USE OF WARNING TIME. RESPONSE TO
USNATO 0065 WAS STATE 7851.

III. AD 70. MISSION SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING AS
GENERAL GUIDANCE: US HAS, SINCE 1971, URGED THAT
FALL REVIEW OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS BE SUPPLEMENTED
WITH A SPRING REVIEW OF SUPPORTING NATO DEFENSE PROGRAMS,
SO THAT MINISTER COULD REVIEW THE BALANCE BETWEEN
FORCES AND SUPPORTING PROGRAMS. WE CONTINUE TO SEE
ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW AS A USEFUL MANAGEMENT TOOL.
WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ASSESSMENT OF BALANCE CAN
BE MET BY A SERIES OF SEPARATE REPORTS TO MINISTERS.
WITH THE ENLARGED SCOPE OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AS
DECIDED BY DPC MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1974, AN ANNUAL
SPRING REVIEW OF SUPPORTING DEFENSE PROGRAMS BECOMES
EVEN MORE RELEVANT. WHILE EMPHASIS OF SPRING
REVIEW MAY VARY FROM TIME TO TIME, ITS COVERAGE
SHOULD REMAIN FAIRLY CONSTANT. AS INDICATED IN
STATE 3477, WE BELIEVE SPRING REVIEW 75 SHOULD REFLECT
REGIONAL FORCE CAPABILITIES, STATUS OF BASIC ISSUES
FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, AND STATUS OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMS.
SINCE SPRING REVIEW IS LATE GETTING UNDERWAY THIS
YEAR AND THERE IS SOME RESISTANCE TO CARRYING IT OUT,
MISSION MAY AGREE TO ANY REASONABLE COMPROMISE WHICH
WILL SERVE MINISTERS THIS SPRING AND NOT STAND AS A
BAR TO SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT ON AN ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW,
AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, AS AN ADDITIONAL MEANS OF
MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE
IN ITS NEW, BROADER SCOPE. BEGIN FYI: IN AGENDA
ITEMS I AND III, WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO STRESS
REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS. THIS WOULD FACILITATE
FORMULATION OF PRIORITIES, REVIEW OF BALANCE, AND
THE GENERAL STOCKTAKING INDICATED. SOME VISIBLE
MEANS OF MAKING REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS, SUCH AS
CONDUCTING STOCKTAKING MEETINGS IN EACH REGION OF
EUROPE, WOULD WARRANT CONSIDERATION. END FYI.
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GENERAL GUIDANCE ABOVE ON THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS PREPARED
WITHOUT TEXT OF DPC/D(75)2 WHICH WE RECEIVED MORNING
OF JANUARY 15 FOR CONSIDERATION AT DPC MEETING
JANUARY 16. WE WOULD ADD THAT SPRING REVIEW AS WE
SEE IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT DUPLICATE ACTION BY
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEES; RATHER, IT SHOULD ASSESS
STATUS OF NATO DEFENSE SUPPORTING PROGRAMS IN RELATION
TO PRESENT AND PLANNED FORCE CAPABILITIES. WE THINK

THIS OVERALL INTEGRATING FUNCTION CAN BEST BE PERFORMED
BY EWG IN FIRST INSTANCE IN SUPPORT OF PERMREPS
RESPONSIBILITY TO MINISTERS.

IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. NO GUIDANCE.

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